THE

PROPHECIES

OF

1490.d.20.

THOMAS RYMER,

The Ancient Scots Prophet.

WHEREIN IS CONTAINED

marks on what is already come
to pass: With some curious Obser-
vations on what is yet to come.

Carefully Collected and Compared with

cient Old Prophecies and the Book
of Arias.

BY THE FAMOUS

. ALLAN BOYD, M. A.

To which is added,

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MEMORABLE

TTLE OF BANNOCKBURN,

Fought in the Year 1314.

PRINTED IN THE YEAR.

1798.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF SIR THOMAS LEARMANT, ALIAS RYMER.

SIR THOMAS LEARMANT, commonly called Thomas Rymer, was born in the east corner of Fife, of a good family. His Propheſies have been more credited than any that were ever recorded in the Scots Chronicle, as they have been well atteſted, what of them is paſt, and what they allude to, in this preſent century and period, and of his dark ſayings yet to come.

He told many myſtical propheſies anent all the kings of Europe, and what fell out according to his prediction, in this ancient kingdom of Scotland; what is paſt, preſent and to come.

This brief account is taken from the Records of Cryle, near which place he was born and brought up.

Hi

His father was said to be Laird of Balomie; and the Records of that family is extant in the Rolls, for their assisting at several Councils for the honour of Scotland. And Sir Thomas Rymer's Prophecies and sayings are still held in esteem.

He lived in the reign of Alexander III. King of Scotland, in the year One thousand, two hundred and forty-eight, much regarded, and knighted by that king that same year.

The first of his prophesies ever taken to be faithfully observed, was, That there should be a storm on a certain day, that would surprise all Scotland. Now, some gentlemen being with him that day, they began to joke him, and said, Sir Thomas, you are now mistaken, and we shall stay and see your mistake, as we have heard so much of your prophesies. He told them to stay an hour longer, and they would see and believe. And in less time than the hour, an express arrived to Sir Thomas from Edinburgh, of the death of Margaret, Queen to Alexander III. who died that day. Upon receiving the news, Sir Thomas told them that this was the storm, and it would give rise to greater commotions in Scotland.

After the death of Queen Margaret, the King married Isabel, daughter to the Earl of Drixe; and Sir Thomas told within

in

in a few months of an earthquake at King-
horn, that would make Scotland tremble.
An expreſs accordingly came to Clyde to
Sir Thomas, that the King had fallen from
his horſe at Kinghorn, and broke his neck;
which happened accordingly. After the
death of Alexander, he left no heirs, ex-
cept a grandchild, Margaret, daughter to
the King of Norway, who alſo ſoon died;
but a ſhort time before her death, ſhe was
betrothed to Edward, King of England.
After this there was great commotions
anent the ſucceſſion to the Crown of Scot-
land, which occaſioned great bloodſhed,
particularly betwixt Bruce and Baliol,
which you have recorded in the Scottiſh
Hiſtories.

The pride of Spain, and the deceitful
conduct of the French, as alſo concerning
the Dutch, is all foretold:—Likewiſe the
Scots battles, at Torwood, Bothwelbridge,
Malplackie, Killakrankie, Sheriff-muir,
Proud Preſton, near Gladſmuir, Falkirk,
Culloden, and the Camps in Morayſhire,
and on the Windmill-brae at Aberdeen,
by General Coup, and at Dunbar.

In forty-five, eighty-two and three,
Sir Thomas Works doth certifie.

THE

THE

PROPHECIES

OF

Thomas Rymer.

AS to his prophetical ſayings, they are hard to be underſtood, becauſe they are pointed out by the Coat of Arms, which appertain to ſo many different kingdoms and perſons. Yet we may obſerve how he has pointed out plainly, many things which has come to paſs in our days; ſuch as the extirpation of the noble race of the Stewarts, the revolution, Sheriffmuir: Where he ſays,

That three Ships and a Shield,
That day ſhall keep the Field;
And be the Antelope's build.

Theſe three ſhips and a ſhield, are in the Duke of Argyle's arms.

And even every particular of the rebellion in 1745 and 46. When pointing at it, he ſays,

A Chieftan unchoſen,
Shall chooſe forth himſelf,
And rule the realm as his own.

When ſpeaking of King Charles, he call
him, "A ſly Fox-bird, who would turn t
Chriſt, with the wyles of tods and foxes."
Meaning his ſwearing of the covenants.

When ſpeaking of the Battle of Preſton
pans, in the year 1745, he names the ver
two neighbouring villages to the ſpot o
ground whereon it was fought, viz. Goyl
ford-green and Seton, ſaying, "Betwee
"Seton and the ſea, ſorrow ſhould b
"wrought by the light of the moon."—
Which act really came to paſs that morn
ing the battle of Preſton-pans was fought
But how the Lion was hurt at this time
and not perceived, is yet a myſtery. Some
are of opinion, that it was by taking awa
the power or ſuperiority from the chief
of the Highland Clans, ſo that they cannot
raiſe men in ſuch a ſhort time as formerly.

Theſe are a few of the obſervations we
make on things already come to paſs, and
as to what is yet to come, there is ſome
remark will yet happen, when the time
draws nigh: Such as, "When Tarbet
"Craigs are tumbled into the ſea. And
"the next ſeaſon or ſummer thereafter
"great ſorrow and bloodſhed happen t
"this realm, the chief thereof, eſpeciall
"ſuch as harling on ſleds, and choppin
"off heads." This Tarbet ſtands nea

root of the river Clyde: but whether being tumbled into the ſea, ſhall happen by an earthquake, thunder, or by the hands of men, is a myſtery unknown.

There is alſo mention made of a Lord with a lucken or double hand, which certainly is of royal blood, and will breed great ſtir and confuſion in Britain. This man is alive at this very preſent age, and of the Stewart's race, now in Italy. There is plainly pointed out, that in his time, a great battle ſhall be ſeen in Fife.

Where ſaddled horſes ſhould be ſeen,
Tyed unto the trees green.

Not only in Fife, but the four chief rivers of the realm, there ſhould be a battle on each of them, that ſhould make the rivers run with blood, viz. Tweed, Clyde, Forth, and Tay.

Laſt of all, a bloody deſperate battle in Northumberland, on the river Tyne.—Alſo great havock and ſlaughter about the broad walls of Berwick. All theſe things are yet to come to paſs: and when the firſt appears, the reſt will ſoon follow after.

OLD

Scottiſh Prophecies,

BY

THOMAS RYMER

PART II.

When HEMPE is come, and alſo gone
Scotland and England ſhall be one.

Henry, Edward, Mary, Philip, Elizabe
VIII. VI. of Spain,
Q. M's Huſb.

H E M P E.

Praiſed be GOD alone,
For HEMPE is come and gone,
And left us old Albion,
By peace join'd in one.

T

The explication of the foregoing prophecy, concerning Hempe being come, and also gone, and leaving Scotland and England joined in one, is fulfilled in the late King William, who came out of Holland, which in old times was vulgarly called the land of Hempe: and the joining of the two nations together, signifies the Union.

These things were foretold by the two Scots Prophets, in the reign of King Arthur. First, by the marvellous Merling, who is said to be got by a Devil, who ravished a young Woman, his mother, in a wood near Coldstream, in the South of Scotland. Afterwards, to the same purpose, these and many more strange things were foretold by Thomas Lermon, vulgarly called Thomas Rymer, because he spoke all his prophetical sayings in rhyme, and so darkly, that they could not be understood until they came to pass.

But of all the Prophets that ever were in Scotland, there never was any of them so attained to such credit, because many of his predictions referred to our own country, and were accomplished in the last and present century.

THOMAS RYMER's

PROPHECIES

IN VERSE.

1 SCOTLAND be ſad now and lament
for honours thou haſt loſt,
But yet rejoice, in better times,
which will repay the coſt.

2 Tho' unto thraldom you ſhould be
brought by your enemies,
You ſhall have freedom from them all,
and enjoy your liberties.

3 The grave of the moſt noble Prince
to all is great regret,
The ſubject to law, who doth leave
the kingdom and eſtate.

4 O anguiſh great! where every kind
and ages doth lament:
Whom bitter death has ta'en away,
ſhall Scotland ſore repent.

5 Lately a land of rich increaſe,
a nation ſtout and true,
Has loſt their former dear eſtate,
which they did hold of due.

6 By hard conflict, and by the chance
of noble Fortune's force,
Thy hap and thy proſperity
may turn unto worſe.

7 Tho' wont to won, may be ſubdu'd,
and come in under yoke;
Strangers may reign, and you deſtroy,
what likes him by ſword's ſtroke.

8 A foreign foe, whom neither thy force
nor manners do approve,
Woe is to thee, by guile and ſlight,
will only win above.

9 This mighty nation was to-fore,
invincible and ſtout,
Will yield ſlowly to deſtiny,
great pity is but doubt.

10 In former age the Scots renown,
did flouriſh goodly gay;
But yet, alas! will be overcome
with a great dark decay.

11 Then mark and ſee what is the cauſe,
of this ſo wond'rous fall!
Contempt of faith, falſehood, deceit,
the wrath of God withal.

12 Unſatiable greed of worldly gain,
oppreſſion, cries of poor,
A perpetual and ſlanderous race,
no juſtice put in ure.

13 The haughty pride of mighty men,
of former vice chief cauſe,
The nutriture of wickedneſs,
an unjuſt match of laws:

14 Therefore this cauſe the prophets,
of long time did preſage,
And now has happen'd every point,
into your preſent age.

15 Since fate is ſo, now Scotland learn,
in patience to abide,
Slanders, great fears, & ſudden plagues,
and great dolours more beſide.

16 For out of thee ſhall people riſe,
with divers happineſs;
And yet a pen can ſcarcely write,
thy hurt, ſkaith, and diſtreſs.

17 And yet beware thou not diſtruſt,
altho' o'erwhelm'd with grief,
Thy ſtroke is not perpetual,
for thou ſhalt find relief.

18 I do ſuppoſe, altho' too late,
old prophecies ſhall hold;
Hope thou in God's goodneſs evermore
and mercies manifold.

19 For thou that now a patient is,
and ſeemeth to be bound;
At liberty ſhall free be ſet,
and with empire be crown'd.

20 From high above ſhall grace come down,
and thy ſtate Scotland be,
In latter ends more proſperous
nor former age did ſee.

21 Old prophecies foretel to thee,
a warlike Heir he's born,
Who ſhall recover new your right,
advance this kingdom's horn.

22 Then ſhall fair Scotland be advanc'd
above her en'mies pow'r;
Her cruel foes ſhall be diſpers'd,
and ſcatter'd from her bow'r.

23 Fair Scotia's en'mies may invade,
but not eſcape a plague;
With ſword, & thirſt, and tears, & peſt,
with fears and ſuch like ague.

24 And after enemies thrown down,
and maſtered in war,
Then Scotland in peace and quietneſs,
paſs joyful days for ever.

But that the curious may be more fully informed concerning the foreſaid predictions, with reſpect to their being exactly fulfilled they are referred to the Scottiſh Hiſtories.

AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

BATTLE of BANNOCKBURN.

——***

EDWARD II. of England, kept up the ſame claim upon Scotland, which his father had begun; and after ſeveral unſucceſsful attempts to eſtabliſh it, he reſolved to make a great effort, and with one blow reduce that turbulent nation, which had put ſo many ſignal affronts upon his father and himſelf.

In the ſpring, 1314, he aſſembled the moſt numerous army that had ever croſſed the borders, compoſed of different nations, and amounting to above 100,000 effective men, beſide a huge multitude of attendants, who came along in hopes of ſharing in the plunder of a conquered enemy. At the head of theſe he marched northward with an uncommon parade, and in full confidence of victory.

Robert

Robert Bruce, the ſon of that Robert Bruce who held a conference with Wallace upon the banks of the Carron, and grandſon to him who had been competitor with Baliol, had, in 1306, been crowned King of Scotland; and being informed of Edward's formidable preparations, he raiſed an army of 30,000 of his ſubjects, to oppoſe him. This armament bore but a ſmall proportion to that of Edward's; but it was compoſed of ſoldiers, who were hardened by long practice of war, and who now carried upon the point of their ſword, liberty and honour, and every thing that was dear to them. With theſe Robert took up his ſtation in the neighbourhood of Stirling, and waited for Edward's arrival.

The two armies came in ſight of each other, in the month of June, and ſoon after a bloody battle was fought, in which the Scots obtained a victory, the moſt celebrated of any in the annals of that kingdom. The procedure of this memorable event was as follows.

The Engliſh having marched from Edinburgh to Falkirk in one day, and upon the morrow, ſetting out from thence towards Stirling, encamped to the northward of the Torwood. About Upper Bannockburn,

burn, and backward upon the Muir o Plain, in the neighbourhood of the ancien Roman Caſway, pieces of broken pots and other veſſels, have been found; an upon rocks near the ſurface, marks of fir have been diſcovered, where it was ſup poſed the ſoldiers had made ready thei proviſions. Barbour, the author of King Robert Bruce's life, ſpeaks as if their camp had ſtretched ſo far northward as to oc cupy a part of carſe-ground; and ſo vaſt a multitude muſt doubtleſs have covered a large tract of the country.

The Scottiſh army was poſted about a mile to the northward, upon ſeveral ſmall eminences, ſouth from the preſent village of St. Ninians. Upon the ſummit of one of theſe eminences, now called Brock's brae, is a ſtone ſunk into the earth, with a round hole in it, near three inches in diameter, and much the ſame in depth, in which, according to tradition, King Robert's ſtandard was fixed, the royal tent having been erected near it. This ſtone is well known in that neighbourhood by the name of the Bore-ſtone. The ſmall river of Bannockburn, remarkable for its ſteep and rugged banks, ran in a narrow valley between the two camps.

The

The Caſtle of Stirling was ſtill in the hands of the Engliſh. Edward Bruce, the King's brother, had, in the Spring of this year, laid ſiege to it, but found himſelf obliged to abandon the enterprize; only by a treaty between that Prince and Moubray, the Governor, it was agreed, that, if the garriſon received no relief from England before a year expired, they ſhould ſurrender to the Scots.

The day preceding the battle, a ſtrong body of cavalry, to the number of 800, was detached from the Engliſh camp, under the conduct of Lord Clifford, to the relief of that garriſon. Theſe having marched through ſome hollow grounds, upon the edge of the Carſe, had paſſed the Scots army before they were obſerved. The King himſelf was the firſt that perceived them, and deſiring Thomas Randolph, Earl of Murray, to look towards the place where they were, told him, that a roſe had fallen from his chaplet. Randolph conſidering this as a reproach, becauſe he had the charge of that part thro' which the Engliſh had marched, immediately ſet out after them with a party of 500 horſe, and coming up with them in the plain, where the ſmall village of New-Houſe now ſtands, a ſharp action enſued, in ſight of both armies, and of the garriſon

of

of Stirling. It was fought with valour on both ſides; and it was for ſome time doubtful where victory ſhould turn. King Robert, attended by ſome of his officers, beheld this rencounter from riſing ground, ſuppoſed to be the round hill immediately upon the weſt of St. Ninians, now called Cock-ſhot-hill. James Douglas perceiving the diſtreſs of Randolph, who was greatly inferior to the enemy in numbers, aſked leave to go to his ſupport. This King Robert at firſt refuſed, but afterwards conſented. Douglas put his ſoldiers in motion: obſerving, however, as he was on the way, that the victory was upon the point of being won without his aſſiſtance, he ſtopped ſhort, that his friend might have the unrivalled glory of it.—The Engliſh were entirely defeated, and many of them ſlain: and Randolph returned to the camp amidſt acclamations of univerſal joy. To perpetuate the memory of this victory, two ſtones were reared up in the field, and are ſtill to be ſeen there. They ſtand in a ſpot which has lately been encloſed for a garden, at the north end of the village of New-Houſe, and about a quarter of a mile from the Borough-port of Stirling.

This

This victory gave new ſpirits to the whole army, and made them ſo eager for the general engagement, that the night, though among the ſhorteſt of the year, ſeemed long to them. Edward too, exaſperated at the defeat of his detachment, was determined to bring on the battle on the morrow. At length appeared the dawn of that important day, which was to decide, whether Scotland was henceforth to be an independent kingdom, or ſubject to a foreign yoke. Early all was in motion in both armies; religious ſentiments were mingled with the military ardour of the Scots: a ſolemn maſs, in the manner of theſe times, was ſaid by the Abbot of Inchaffery, a monaſtry in Strathearn, who alſo adminiſtered the Sacrament to the King, and the great officers about him, while inferior prieſts did the ſame to the reſt of the army. After this, they formed in order of battle, in a track of ground called Nether Touchadam, which lies along the declivity of a gentle riſing hill. This ſituation had been previouſly choſen, becauſe of its advantages. Upon the right they had a range of ſteep rocks, now called Murray's Craig, and in their front were ſteep banks of the rivulet of Bannockburn. Not far behind them was a wood, ſome veſtiges of which ſtill remain. Upon the left was a moraſs, now

called

called Milton-bog, from its vicinity to
ſmall village of that name: much of th
bog is ſtill undrained, and a part of it
at preſent a mill-dam. As it was the
the middle of ſummer, it was almoſt quit
dry. But King Robert had recourſe to
ſtratagem, in order to prevent any attac
from that quarter. He had ordered man
ditches and pits to be digged in the moraſ
and ſtakes, ſharpened at both ends, to b
driven into them, and the whole to b
covered over again with green turf,
that the ground had ſtill the appearanc
of being firm. He alſo cauſed crow-fee
or ſharp-pointed irons, to be ſcattere
throughout the moraſs: ſome of whic
have been found there in the memory
people ſtill living: the ſame manœuvr
were likewiſe carried on for a little wa
along the front of the left wing; for the
the banks, for about two hundred yard
being flatter than they are any where elſ
it was the only place where the enem
could paſs the river in any ſort of orde
By means of theſe artificial improvement
joined to the natural ſtrength of the groun
the Scotch army ſtood as within an e
trenchment, and the inviſible pits a
ditches anſwered to the concealed batt
ries of more modern times.

Among

Amongſt the other occurrences of this emorable day, hiſtorians mention an in-dent of a ſingular nature. As the two mies were about to engage, the Abbot Inchaffery poſting himſelf before the cots, with a crucifix in his hand, they all ll down upon their knees in act of de-tion. The enemy obſerving them in uncommon a poſture, concluded that ey were frighted unto ſubmiſſion, and t, by kneeling, when they ſhould be dy to fight, they meant to ſurrender at cretion, and only begged their lives; t they were ſoon undeceived, when they them riſe again, and ſtand to their ms with ſteady countenances.

The Engliſh began the action by a briſk rge upon the left wing of the Scots, mmanded by Randolph, near the ſpot ere the bridge is now thrown over the er, at the ſmall village of Charterſhall. reabout was the only place where the er could be croſſed in any order.— large body of cavalry advanced to at-k him in front, while another fetched ompaſs to fall upon his flank and rear; before they could come to a cloſe gagement, they fell into the ſnare that been laid for them. Many of their rſes were ſoon diſabled by the ſharp s ruſhing into their feet, others tumb-

led

led into the concealed pits, and could n
diſentangle themſelves. Pieces of th
harneſhug with bits of broken ſpears, an
other armour, ſtill continue to be dug u
in the bog.

In the beginning of the engagement, a
incident happened, which though it itſe
of ſmall moment, was rendered importa
by its conſequences. King Robert w
mounted on horſeback, carrying a battl
ax in his hand, and upon his helmet
wore a high turban, in the form of
crown, by way of diſtinction. This, t
gether with his activity, rendered hi
very conſpicuous as he rode before t
lines. An Engliſh Knight, named Bohu
who was ranked among the braveſt
Edward's army, came galloping furiou
up to him, in order to engage with h
in ſingle combat, expecting by ſo emine
an act of chivalry, at once to put an e
to the conteſt, and gain immortal renov
to himſelf: but the enterpriſing champi
having miſſed his firſt blow, was imme
ately ſtruck dead with the battle ax wh
the King carried in his hand. This wa
ſort of ſignal for the charge. So bol
attack upon their King, filled the S
with ſentiments of revenge; and the
roic atchievement performed by him
fore their eyes, raiſed their ſpirits to
hig

heſt pitch, they ruſhed furiouſly upon enemy, who, having by this time paſſed the river in great numbers, gave them warm reception.

A ſingular occurrence, which ſome accounts repreſent as an accidental ſally of patriotic enthuſiaſm, others as a premeditated ſtratagem of King Robert, ſuddenly altered the face of affairs, and contributed greatly to the victory: All the ſervants and attendants of the Scottiſh army, who are ſaid to have amounted to twenty thouſand, had been ordered, before the battle, to retire behind Murray's Craig. But having, during the engagement, arranged themſelves in a martial form, they marched to the top of the hill, and diſplaying white ſheets fixed upon poles, inſtead of banners, moved towards the field of battle with hideous ſhouts. The Engliſh perceiving this motely crowd, and taking them for a freſh reinforcement advancing to ſupport the Scots, were ſeized with ſo great a panic, that they began to give way in confuſion. Buchanan ſays, that the king of England was the firſt who fled; but in this he contradicts all other hiſtorians, who affirm that he was among the laſt in the field. The Scots purſued, and great was the ſlaughter among the enemy, eſpecially in paſſing the river, where they

could

[illegible] difficulty, being
[illegible] for above forty miles. [illegible]
Sir James Douglas, with a party of light
horfe. He was upon the point of being
taken priſoner, when he was received into
the Caſtle of Dunbar by the Earl of March,
who conveyed him to England, by ſea, in
a fiſher's boat; his numerous army being
entirely diſcomfited. The Scots loſt
four thouſand men, while the loſs of the
Engliſh amounted to above 30,000.

FINIS.